

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 26, 2008 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 13 are pending in the present application and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended and claim 5 has now been cancelled. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

As an initial matter, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled claim 5. No new matter has been added by this amendment. In addition, claim 13 has been similarly amended.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 and note that the amendments render the rejection moot.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reihs et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,652,669.

As noted above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of now cancelled claim 5. More specifically, independent claim 1 recites: “wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of hot rolled steel sheet, cold-rolled steel sheet, hot-dipped metallic coated steel sheets, electroplated metallic coated steel sheets, aluminum sheets, aluminum alloy sheets, zinc sheets, and zinc alloy sheets and said metal includes coatings of one or more layers selected from the group consisting of lead, lead alloy, nickel, nickel alloy, tin and tin alloy.” Reihs fails to disclose or render obvious independent claim 1 as presently amended.

More specifically, Reihs appears to disclose “a method for producing an ultra-phobic surface on aluminum as the supporting material.” Abstract. In addition, the *Office Action* of August 26, 2008 relies upon Reihs for disclosing “treating aluminum or Al alloy by coating with n-decanethiol in ethanol at 1 g/l” as well as for teaching n-decanethiol, which is considered “a

homolog of the octadecanethiol of claim 3.” However, Reihs does not disclose that the metal includes coatings of one or more layers selected from the group consisting of lead, lead alloy, nickel, nickel alloy, tin and tin alloy. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Reihs fails to disclose or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 10-001784.

As noted above, independent claim 1 has been amended and independent claim 13 has been amended in a similar manner to independent claim 1. JP 10-001784 fails to disclose or render obvious independent claims 1 and 13 as presently amended.

More specifically, JP 10-001784 discloses a “zinc system plating steel plate ...having the coat which consists of a mercaptide compound.” See Claim 1. In addition, the *Office Action* of August 26, 2008 recites that JP 10-001784 teaches “applying 1-octadecane thiol or other alkyl thiols to electro-galvanized steel, in a water-alcohol mixture at 5 millimoles (presumably in one liter), by dipping and drying (see Abstracts; [0007-0011] of translation).” However, JP 10-001784 does not disclose that the metal (or steel) includes coatings of one or more layers selected from the group consisting of lead, lead alloy, nickel, nickel alloy, tin and tin alloy. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that JP 10-001784 does not disclose or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter of claims 1 and 13 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner desires personal contact for further disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at 603.668.6560.

In the event there are any fees due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

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